

HOUSE BILL 396

By Goins

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 50, relative to memoranda of understanding granting driving privileges to new residents without examinations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-322, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection (i) and redesignating existing subsection (i) accordingly:

(i)

(1) The department may enter into a memorandum of understanding with a foreign country, or the licensing authority of the foreign country, under which the department and the foreign country agree to grant like driving privileges to new residents operating motor vehicles in this state or the foreign country.

(2) The memorandum of understanding executed pursuant to subdivision (i)(1) shall be a reciprocal agreement under which the parties agree that:

(A) The foreign country or licensing authority shall waive any required knowledge and skills tests or equivalent tests upon application by a new resident who possesses a valid driver license from this state, and shall issue a driver license or equivalent license to the new resident; and

(B) The department shall waive the required knowledge and skills tests upon application by a new resident who possesses a valid driver license or equivalent license from the foreign country, and shall issue a driver license to the new resident, if the applicant presents documentation

to the department that the applicant's presence in the United States is authorized by the United States department of homeland security.

(3) The memorandum of understanding may specify any of the following:

(A) That the foreign country shall verify the residency of the applicant in the foreign country prior to issuance of a driver license;

(B) That the department and the foreign country shall verify that the driver license held by the applicant is not subject to cancellation, suspension, or revocation and is valid, or has not been expired in excess of six (6) months; and

(C) Circumstances under which the department or the foreign country shall limit or deny issuance of a driver license.

(4) The department may enter into a memorandum of understanding with a foreign country regardless of whether the department has previously determined to administer a knowledge or skills test in the language of the foreign country.

(5) As used in this subsection (i):

(A) "Driver license" includes a driver license, an intermediate driver license, a temporary driver license, or a temporary intermediate driver license; and

(B) "Foreign country" means a country or political subdivision of a country other than the United States.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.